

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

November 14, 2007

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Assigned to Each Case

FEDERAL GRAND JURY RETURNS INDICTMENTS

Madison, Wisconsin -- A federal grand jury in the Western District of Wisconsin, sitting in Madison, returned the following indictments today. You are advised that a charge is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

SIX CHARGED WITH FOOTVILLE BANK ROBBERY

Six individuals have been charged with conspiracy to commit bank robbery and armed bank robbery of the Mid America Bank in Footville, Wis. on November 9, 2007. The six persons charged today are Troy Thomas, 35, Donald Thompson, 21, Curtis Seaberry, 21, Matthew Evans, 36, Lisa Ramos, 30, all of Rockford, Ill., and Skye Archambault, 20, of Orfordville, Wis.

The defendants, except Ramos, are also charged with possessing three firearms – a 12 gauge sawed-off shotgun, a .40 caliber semi-automatic pistol, and a .22 caliber semi-automatic pistol – in furtherance of a crime of violence. Troy Thomas and Curtis Seaberry are also charged with being felons in possession of these firearms, and Troy Thomas is charged with possessing a sawed-off shotgun.

Thomas, Thompson, Seaberry, Ramos and Archambault were arrested on November 9, 2007 and initially charged by a complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Madison. They made an initial appearance on November 13, and were ordered detained pending an arraignment and detention hearing scheduled for November 16, at 2:00 p.m. Evans was arrested in Rockford on November 13, 2007. He will make an initial appearance in Madison today.

If convicted, each defendant faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in federal prison on the armed bank robbery count and five years on the conspiracy count. The possession of firearms in furtherance of a crime of violence count carries a mandatory minimum penalty of seven years, which would be served consecutively to any other prison time.

Seaberry and Thomas each face an additional 10 years for the felon in possession count, and Thomas faces an additional 10 years for possessing the sawed-off shotgun.

The charges against the defendants are the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (Madison and Rockford offices); Rock County Sheriff's Department; Orfordville Police Department; Beloit Police Department; Rockford Police Department; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; and the Winnebago County (Ill.) Sheriff's Department. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel J. Graber.

PLATTEVILLE MAN CHARGED WITH POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Jody M. Behlke, 33, of Platteville, Wis., is charged with possessing DVDs containing visual depictions of a minor engaging in sexually explicit contact. The indictment alleges that he possessed these materials on July 6, 2007.

If convicted, Behlke faces a maximum penalty of not less than 10 years and nor more than 200 years in federal prison. The charge against the defendant is the result of an investigation conducted by the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation and the Platteville Police Department. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel J. Graber.

This case has been brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, the U.S. Department of Justice created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. Attorneys' Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

MADISON MAN CHARGED WITH DRUG CRIMES

Deandre J. Bishop, 30, of Madison, Wis., is charged with distributing five grams or more of crack cocaine on September 27, 2007, and possessing with intent to distribute five grams or more of crack cocaine on October 1, 2007.

If convicted, Bishop faces a maximum penalty of not less than five years and not more than 40 years in federal prison. The charge against him is the result of an investigation by the Dane County Narcotics and Gang Task Force and the Drug Enforcement Administration. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney David J. Reinhard.

THREE OXFORD INMATES CHARGED WITH CRIMES

In unrelated cases, three inmates of the Federal Correctional Institution at Oxford, Wis. have been charged with the following crimes:

Devon Chisom, 31, is charged with assaulting an employee of the institution on September 15, 2007. If convicted, he faces a maximum penalty of one year in federal prison. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Meredith P. Duchemin.

Franklin Stokes, 40, is charged with assaulting another person with a dangerous weapon on May 18, 2007. If convicted, he faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in federal prison. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert A. Anderson.

Travis Hinton, 29, is charged with possessing a prohibited object, namely marijuana, on July 14, 2007. If convicted, he faces a maximum penalty of five years in federal prison. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert A. Anderson.

The charges against these three individuals are the result of investigations by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Prisons.

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